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INFO RUEHKK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
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SIPDIS

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NSC
CMC WASHINGTON DC FOR POLAD

JERUSALEM ALSO FOR ICD
LONDON FOR HKANONA AND POL - TSOU
PARIS ALSO FOR POL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/19): "HAMAS MUST ACCEPT THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION"

Main Stories:

All front pages covered Israeli daily Haaretz's report of an official complaint submitted by the U.S. three weeks ago to Israel over the deteriorating situation in Gaza. The report, that leads Al Hayat Al Jadida, alleges that the U.S. urged Israel to lift the Gaza blockade and open the crossing points to allow entry of food aid, medication and construction materials to accelerate Gaza reconstruction activities. The lead photo of Al-Hayat Al-Jadida shows Gazan children protesting the Israeli blockade near the Rafah crossing, holding signs that read, "Stop killing us."

Al-Ayyam leads with and Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida run front page coverage of new demolition notices served by the Jerusalem Municipality on June 18 to Palestinian owners of several houses in East Jerusalem's Al-Bustan neighborhood. The orders cite a lack of building permits.

Al-Quds leads coverage with a Reuters wire report of a plan proposed by Jewish religious leaders aimed at dividing the religious sites in East Jerusalem, including Al-Aqsa mosque, among the three religions.

The Jewish leaders acknowledged that the plan will be extremely difficult to implement because it will be, "subject to deep and lengthy study by the concerned parties," according to coverage.

Al-Quds' front page announces, without further detail, that two new cases of H1N1 have been reported in the Palestinian Territories. The Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health reassured the public that the cases, "are contained," reporting notes.

All dailies run front page coverage of statements made by Middle East Quartet Envoy Tony Blair (June 18), stating that he believes a peace settlement can be reached between Israel and the Palestinians

within a year's time, if all concerned parties meet their obligations.

Al- Ayyam includes a Reuters wire report on its front page concerning statements from PLO Chief Negotiator Erekat (June 18) reiterating the Palestinian demand that settlement activities must stop completely in order to end the Palestinian Israeli conflict.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs inside coverage on the participation of General Dayton and the Palestinian Authority Minister of Interior in a graduation ceremony held in Ramallah (June 18) for 40 Palestinian Authority National Security Forces from a "U.S.-funded training course on security procedures." General Dayton is quoted stating that preparing Palestinian Authority security forces is part of preparations for a Palestinian state.

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al-Quds editorial runs under the title, "Retaining Palestinian red lines"(06/19): "Palestinians can contain their conflict only by returning to transparent and accountable elections... Palestinians must commit to their national principles [statehood, sovereignty, ending the Israeli occupation,etc.] which have always characterized the Palestinian national movement... Otherwise, we will witness more deterioration in the Palestinian cause, and we will have no one but ourselves to blame."

2) Mouhammad Yaghi opines in independent daily Al-Ayyam under the title, "The world is waiting to hear three words from Misha'al," (06/19): "In order for the Palestinian conflict to end, [Ham

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leader] Misha'al must voice his acceptance of the two-state solution, even if he attaches preconditions... such as a halt to all settlement activities, dismantling existing settlements and retaining full sovereignty over Jerusalem... The bottom line is to recognize the need for two states... I do not believe that Hamas is ready yet [to make such statements]."

WALLES